

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JUAN DE ONIS BY-LINER NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY 12 AUG HEADED "U.S. AIDES IN CHILE FIND SHIFT ON RIGHTS."
 2. SANTIAGO, CHILE, AUG. 11--TERENCE A. TODMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS, ARRIVED HERE TODAY ON THE HEELS OF ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN, A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHO SPECIALIZES IN HUMAN RIGHTS.
 3. AMERICAN OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THE HUMAN-RIGHTS RECORD OF THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD MILITARY REGIME HEADED BY PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET HAS IMPROVED SINCE JANUARY WITH THE RE-UNCLASSIFIED
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- LEASE OF VIRTUALLY ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD WITHOUT CHARGES AND A SHARP DECLINE IN REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES OF PERSONS.
4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH CHILEAN OFFICIALS, THE VISITORS HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE THAT THE DEFENSIVE MENTALITY OF THE PAST, IN WHICH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS ATTRIBUTED

TO A "COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN," HAS GIVEN WAY TO A MORE PRAGMATIC WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL COUNTRIES AS AN INTERNATIONAL GOAL.

5. BUT ALONG WITH THE FRIENDLY DIALOGUE, THE AMERICAN VISITORS HAVE CONVEYED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE IF CHILE ENDED THE STATE OF SIEGE, UNDER WHICH CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES ARE SUSPENDED, AND RESTORED EFFECTIVE CONTROL BY JUDGES OVER THE ACTIONS OF THE SECURITY POLICE.

6. THE VISITORS HAVE ALSO SHOWN THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES INTEREST IN HEARING DISSENTING VIEWS. MR. LOWENSTEIN MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARDO FREI MONTALVA, LEADER OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL ALONG WITH THE LEFT-WING PARTIES OF THE POPULAR UNITY GOVERNMENT OF THE LATE PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE GOSSENS, WHO WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1973 BY THE MILITARY.

7. MR. TODMAN, WHO IS MAKING HIS FIRST VISIT TO CHILE, IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH MR. FREI, AS WELL AS WITH RAUL CARDINAL SILVA HENRIQUEZ, ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MARSHALING EVIDENCE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 500 PERSONS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, AND HAS CALLED FOR ECONOMIC MEASURES

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TO RELIEVE THE POVERTY OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS.

8. THE POSSIBILITIES OF ORGANIZED DISSENT IN CHILE ARE LIMITED BY THE PROHIBITION UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE OF POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY, OF LABOR STRIKES AND OF THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY.

9. BUT AN OPEN MEETING BETWEEN MR. LOWENSTEIN AND A GROUP OF STUDENT AND YOUTH LEADERS AT THE CHILEAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE SHOWED THAT THE CONTROVERSIAL HUMAN-RIGHTS QUESTION CAN LEAD TO LIVELY PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

10. THE YOUTH LEADERS WHO MET AROUND A TABLE WITH MR. LOWENSTEIN REPRESENTED THE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED UNIVERSITY STUDENT FEDERATIONS, THE PRESIDENTIAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT AND THE STUDENTS FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

11. FRANCISCO BERTOLUCCI, PRESIDENT OF THE YOUTH SECRETARIAT, SAID THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED WITH FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, SUCH AS THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS FOR PERSONS OF "EXTREME POVERTY."

12. A NATIONAL WEEK OF "CIVIC ACTION" INVOLVING YOUTH GROUPS IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN SHANTYTOWNS AND POOR RURAL AREAS. IT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY COUP SEPTEMBER 11.

13. CHRISTIAN LAROLLET, THE LEADER OF THE STUDENTS FOR NATIONAL UNITY, SAID THE "DEMAGOGUERY" OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE 30 YEARS PRECEDING THE MILITARY TAKEOVER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POVERTY AND SOCIAL DEPRIVATION OF CHILE'S "LOWER 20 PERCENT."

14. "IF WE DON'T DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC INJUSTICES AS WELL AS POLITICAL, THE SUFFERING OF HUMAN KIND AROUND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD WILL NOT BE ADDRESSED WITHIN THE LIFETIMES OF MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD," SAID MR. LOWENSTEIN.

15. BUT THE DISCUSSION AROUND THE TABLE WITH THE INVITED STUDENT GROUP WAS INTERRUPTED FROM THE AUDIENCE WHEN GUILLERMO YUNGE, WHO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SANTIAGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FEDERATION IN 1971, SAID THAT THE "ONLY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ALLOWED TO SPEAK IN CHILE NOW ARE THOSE WHO EXPRESS THE OFFICIAL VIEW." CHRISTOPHER

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